

REMARKS

Claims 1-37 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 27 and 29 are amended. Reconsideration based on the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants gratefully appreciate the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by the Examiner during the personal interview.

I. The Claims Satisfy All Formal Requirements

Although not objected to by the Examiner, claim 27 has been amended to correct informalities. No new matter has been added.

II. The Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-12, 17-25, 28 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,314,530 to Mann (hereinafter "Mann"); and claims 13, 14 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Mann. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Office Action indicates that claim 15 contains allowable subject matter. Amended claims 1 and 29 incorporate the limitation of cancelled claim 15. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1 and 29, as amended, distinguish over the prior art in that they include a first monitor section that includes a first frequency division circuit for dividing a first clock and for generating a first sampling clock for sampling each bit in data sent and received according to start-stop synchronization, and a circuit for sending and receiving data based on the first sampling clock, and the first monitor section supplies the first clock to the second monitor section as a signal for causing a second frequency division circuit included in the second monitor section to generate a second sampling clock.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 29 are distinguishable over the applied art. Claims 2-14, 16-28, and 30-37, which depend from claims 1 and 29, are likewise distinguishable over the applied art for at least the reasons discussed as well as for the additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-14 and 16-37 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Holly N. Sy
Registration No. 50,212

JAO:HNS/cfr

Date: December 1, 2003

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

| |
|--|
| <p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p> |
|--|